Salem Presbyterian Church Sunday, December 8, 2024, 2nd Sunday of Advent

Pastor: Rev. Thomas Emery Organist: Becky Reichard Flowers are given to the glory of God by Dave & Carla Breese

Prelude & Lighting the Candles

Welcome and Prayer

<u>Call to Worship</u>: A voice cries out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord!" **Make God's paths straight.** Every valley will be filled, and every mountain will be leveled. **The crooked will be made straight.** The rough and rocky ways will be smoothed. **All will see the salvation of God.** See the light from on high. The dawn is breaking. **The Lord is coming!** The Lord is coming! **We pray in the Name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*<u>Hymn</u>: It Came upon the Midnight Clear 90

The lighting of the Love Advent Candle

Skit@ the Bus Stop

Prayer of Confession: O Lord, darkness surrounds us like a cold stone tomb, until your light bursts into our lives like a clear, bright dawn. We cover our eyes, we're so unprepared for Your coming. Your light blazes forth like a white-hot fire, consuming all it touches. How can we stand before You, Lord? The road that we thought was straight and wide is now exposed as a twisted, crooked path blocked by a mountain of sin. Where can we turn? Who will guide us back to the way of peace—the way that leads to You? Jesus is the Way! We pray in the Name of Jesus Christ. Amen. (Let us now have a moment of silence to offer our prayers of confession).

Assurance of Pardon

Response Glory Be to the Father Inside Front Cover

Joys & Concerns of the Church

Prayers of the People

<u>Prayer Response</u>	The Lord's Prayer	•
Special Music	O Holy Night	Arlene Amstutz & Becky Reichard
Scripture Readings	*Malachi 3:1-4 Luke 1:68-79 Luke 3:1-6	874 932 934
Time for Children		

*Hymn: Silent Night! Holy Night!

Sermon "The Creator and Redeemer" Rev. Thomas Emery

85

*Apostle's Creed: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offertory Prayer

*<u>Response</u> **Praise God** Inside Front Cover

*<u>Hymn:</u> Angels We Have Heard on High 89

*Taking the Light into the World

*Charge and Benediction

*Congregational Response Three Fold Amen Inside Back Cover

*Those who can are invited to stand.

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Financial Update:

Needed Weekly: \$2,298.10 Needed to Date: \$110,308.85 Rec'd 2024-12-01: \$1,970.00 Rec'd to Date: \$115,834.75 Sunday: 2024-12-08 2nd Sunday of Advent

9:30 AM Worship (nursery with Dave & Carla Breese)

4:00 PM Christmas Caroling. Meet at the church N. parking lot.

6:00 PM Manse Party

Tuesday: 2024-12-10

7:30 AM Men's Bible Study meets at the Trinity Global Methodist

Church at Crawford and Walnut Streets

7:00 PM Women's Bible Study meets downstairs at Salem.

Thursday: 2024-12-12

Noon The Van Wert County Prayer Group meets on Thursdays

at noon in Van Wert; the meeting place for December is

the Brumback Library basement.

Sunday: 2024-12-15 ^{23rd}Sunday of Advent/Christmas Program

9:30 AM Worship (nursery with Kevin & Kristen Price)

Announcements: Salem is collecting Offerings from the Heart for the Salvation Army. Each month, we collect different items; the December collection will be collecting toilet paper.

We will not be using the large white envelopes for church giving in 2025. If you want to put your money in an envelope, please use the small white envelopes found in the little brown boxes in the two vestibules.

Birthday Card shower for Marilyn Stockton. She turns 95 on December 13th. Her mailing address is Lochhaven, Apt 220, 1640 Allentown Road, Lima, OH 45805

Upcoming Birthdays

8th Paige Thatcher (McClure) 9th Jason Lloyd 10th Danielle Lloyd 13th Marilyn Stockton 17th John Finn 17th Jeremy Morris

Upcoming Anniversaries

16th Kent & Heather McClure 28th Doug & Marilyn Strickler



Salem Presbyterian Church

P.O. Box 678, Venedocia, OH 45894 | 419-667-4142

www.SalemChurch.cc | secretary@salemchurch.cc

Prayer Concerns:

LaDonna Allenbaugh (shoulder & elbow surgery)

Charles Boroff (heart issue)

Dave Burnett (heart issues)

Tom Burnett (recovering from an accident)

Pastor Tom Emery (long COVID healing)

Marjorie Eutsler

Millie Fletcher

Ellen Friesner

Cecil Foust (heart surgery)

Shana Fryer

Stephanie Gamble (eye issues)

Bob & Jane Harter

Sheryl Hefner (cancer)

Carla Hillabrand (medical issues) sister to Nancy Breese

Jerry & Elizabeth Holscher

David Kroeger (pancreatic cancer)

Jim Lloyd (at Van Wert Manor for heart & foot issues)

Mary Lou Morgan (Eleanor Morgan's daughter)

David Morris (Zeb)

Tim Morris

Steve Muhlenkamp (cancer) Jen Pugh's step-dad

Bev Place (cancer)

Patti Poling (pancreatic cancer)

Paul Price

Denise Pugh

Ann Rees (in Van Wert Hearth & Home)

Bianca Richards (Evelyn Schwartz

Marilyn Stockton (heart issues)

The area Nursing Homes and their residents

Serving Our Country:

Dillon Ellerbrock (U.S. Marines)

Corbin Evans (U.S. Marine Corps)

Cory McCollow (U.S. Coast Guard)

Butch Eutsler (U.S. Army)

Madison Pugh (U.S. Coast Guard)

Condolences for Becky Martz (mother of Elijah).

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Rev. Thomas Emery
"The Creator and Redeemer" Malachi 3:1-4
Salem Presbyterian Church
December 8, 2018

Israel heard from the Prophet Malachi that God was purifying Israel by their suffering afflictions. So, too, God may be refining us by the fires of His daily judgments. But His aim is always that of love -- to rid us of sin. Our Lord, by His Spirit at work in our lives and the world, is taking away the sin that will make us unable to endure the coming of the Day of the Lord. By His action as the Refiner of our lives, God in Christ can keep us from falling and present us without blemish before the presence of His glory with rejoicing (Jude 24). In our helplessness, we need someone to prepare us, to remind us, and to point us in the right direction out of the wilderness.

TEACHING POINTS

POINT ONE – We are lost on our own and self-destructive.

POINT TWO – We just obey, and God honors our obedience by blessing us with gifts

POINT THREE – *While on earth, don't waste your time.*

THIS WEEK'S KEY PASSAGE

² "But who will be able to endure it when he comes? Who will be able to stand and face him when he appears? For he will be like a blazing fire that refines metal, or like a strong soap that bleaches clothes (Malachi 3:2 NLT).

ACTION POINT

People need to be aware that they are undeserving sinners, but they could also be bound to a forgiving God who wants to give them hope. We are not capable of changing ourselves. Because we are sinners, our attempts at self-reform will always come up short of what God requires of us in the Ten Commandments of the Covenant. However, as the Covenant helps us to recognize our inadequacy, the Covenant also allows us to realize that God made the Covenant with the intent of helping us. The Covenant declares that we should have been entirely dependent upon God in the first place. That is what John the Baptist was preaching about when he taught a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins by the Lamb of God. Why not turn to the Jesus who can give us hope and a future by making us right with God?

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